

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 and 6-21 stand rejected and Claim 5 has been objected to. Claims 22-29 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended herein and Claims 5-14 and 16-21 have been cancelled herein. New Claims 30 and 31 have been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and to render all claims at issue patentably distinct over the references cited.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, the noted claims have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 6-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, the noted claims have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA, BMW and Neubrand. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, independent Claim 1 has been amended to essentially include the elements of the objected to dependent Claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA and Renneker. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited references. Notwithstanding, this rejection is deemed moot since Claim 14 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA, Renneker and Chika. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, this rejection is deemed moot in light of the amendment to the current base independent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 18, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chika and Varner. Furthermore, Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chika, Varner and BMW. These rejections are respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, these rejections are deemed moot since these claims have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA, BMW, Neubrand and Varner. This rejection is respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claim is patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, this rejection is deemed moot in light of the amendment to the base

independent claim. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA, Renneker and Neubrand. Furthermore, Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MGA, Renneker, BMW and Varner. These rejections are respectfully traversed. It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over the cited references. Nevertheless, these rejections are deemed moot since these claims have been cancelled, without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the instant rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the instant amendments, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if the application is not currently in condition for allowance, so any remaining issues can be resolved. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest convenience.

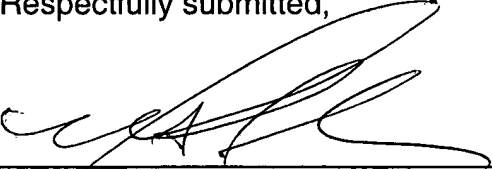
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